AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a casing on a rear portion of which an opening is formed, said opening being covered with a rear cover provided with an outward protrusion;

a washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted forward at a predetermined angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry, and wherein a rear lower portion of said tilted outer tub projects rearwardly through said opening to an internal space of the protrusion of said rear cover; and

means for driving and rotating the [[outer]] inner tub.

2. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said casing has a front portion relatively flat and perpendicular with respect to a bottom of said washing machine.

3. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said casing further includes a body integrally comprised of a front portion and a pair of side portions and formed having a channel section shape, an upper plate attached to an upper sub portion of an open portion of the casing, and a lower plate attached to a lower sub-portion of the open portion of the casing under the upper plate, thereby forming said opening between said upper and lower plates.

4. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein said protrusion of the rear cover is shaped in the form of a trapezoidal cross section.

5. (Currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a casing having a rear portion on which an opening is formed, said opening being covered with a rear cover provided with an outward protrusion;

a washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted forward at a predetermined angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry;

means for driving and rotating the [[outer]] inner tub; and

a shock-absorbing element, said shock-absorbing element being attached to an inner surface of the protrusion of said rear cover so as to absorb impact energy when a projected portion of said tilted outer tub is brought into contact with said rear cover.

6. (Currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a casing having a rear portion on which an opening is formed, said opening being covered with a rear cover provided with an outward protrusion;

a washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted forward at a predetermined angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry;

means for driving and rotating the [[outer]] inner tub;

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold an lower portion of said rear cover.

7. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 6, further comprising one or more clips, said clips being formed on an upper end of said rear cover so as to engage with said at least one first holding projection.

8. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 7, further comprising one or more notches, said notches being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said first holding projections to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

9. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 6, further comprising one or more notches, said notches being formed on an upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said at least one first holding projection to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

10. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 6, wherein said casing is formed to allow a rear lower portion of said tilted outer tub to be projected through said opening to an internal space of the protrusion of said rear cover.

11. (Original) A washing machine casing comprising:

a body having a front portion, a pair of side portions, a base plate along a bottom of the casing and a tub portion;

a plurality of load supports being formed on upper ends of a plurality of upper corners of the casing;

an upper portion having a folding door;

a relatively flat and perpendicular rear portion, wherein said rear portion includes an upper plate, an open portion having an open portion facilitating a connection to a power source, and a lower plate, said upper plate being engaged with an upper sub-portion of the open portion and said lower plate being engaged with a lower sub-portion of the open portion, said rear portion being in parallel with said front portion; and

a rear cover covering said opening of the open portion and having a shock absorbing element, said shock-absorbing element being attached to an inner surface of said rear cover so as to absorb impact energy from said tub portion.

12. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 11, wherein said tub portion is for a tilted washing tub, said rear cover including a protrusion having a slope corresponding to a tilt angle of said tilted washing tub and extending in a direction away from said front portion of said casing.

13. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 12, further comprising:

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold a lower portion of said rear cover.

14. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 13, further comprising one or more clips, said clips being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to engage with said first holding projections.

15. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 11, further comprising:

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold a lower portion of said rear cover.

16. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 15, further comprising one or more clips, said clips being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to engage with said first holding projections.

17. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 15, further comprising at least one notch, said at least one notch being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said first holding projections to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

18. (Original) The washing machine according to claim 15, further comprising at least one notch, said at least one notch being formed on the upper end of said rear cover so as to allow said first holding projections to pass through said rear cover when said rear cover is assembled with the casing.

19. (Original) A washing machine casing comprising:

a body having a front portion, a pair of side portions, a base plate along a bottom of the casing and a tub portion;

a plurality of load supports being formed on upper ends of a plurality of upper corners of the casing;

an upper portion having a folding door;

a relatively flat and perpendicular rear portion, wherein said rear portion includes an upper plate, an open portion having an open portion facilitating a connection to a power source, and a lower plate, said upper plate being engaged with an upper sub-portion of the open portion and said lower plate being engaged with a lower sub-portion of the open portion, said rear portion being in parallel with said front portion;

a rear cover covering said opening of the open portion;

at least one first holding projection regularly formed on a lower end of said upper plate over said opening so as to hold an upper portion of said rear cover; and

at least one second holding projection regularly formed on an upper portion of said lower plate under said opening so as to hold a lower portion of said rear cover.

20. (Original) The washing machine casing according to claim 19, wherein said tub portion is for a tilted washing tub, said rear cover including a protrusion having a slope corresponding to a tilt angle of said tilted washing tub and extending in a direction away from said front portion of said casing.

21. (New) A method of manufacturing a washing machine comprising:

providing a casing having first and second sides and a rear side, the rear side having an opening;

inserting a washing tub into the casing, the washing tub having outer and inner tubs, said outer tub being positioned in the casing and being tilted at an angle for containing washing water, said inner tub being positioned in said outer tub for washing and spin-drying laundry, the inner tub being rotated by a motor;

attaching a plate at an upper portion of the rear side, the plate covering a first portion of the opening in the rear side; and

covering a second portion of the opening with a rear cover, the rear cover having an outward protrusion.

22. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the first and second sides extend and bend into the rear side.

23. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the outer tub is tilted in a forward direction.

24. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the outer tub extends out of the opening in the rear side.

25. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the outward protrusion of the rear cover protrudes in accordance with the predetermined angle of tilt.

26. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein a lower portion of the plate at least partially overlaps an upper portion of the rear cover.

27. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, further comprising a lower plate covering a third portion of the opening of the rear side.

28. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the first portion of the opening and the second portion of the opening partially overlap.

29. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein clothes are inserted into the washing machine from a top.

30. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the motor directly drives the inner tub.

31. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the rear covering covers the second portion of the opening after a wiring process to connect the motor to a control unit.

32. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, further comprising load supports at upper corners of the casing.

33. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 32, wherein load supports are coupled to suspension rods to prevent the outer tub from contacting a front portion of the casing.

34. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein a cross-section of the outward protrusion has a trapezoidal shape.

35. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein a cross-section of the outward protrusion has a triangular shape.

36. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein a cross-section of the outward protrusion has a circular shape.

37. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, further comprising a shock-absorbing element to prevent damage to the rear cover.

38. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 37, wherein the shock-absorbing element is located at least partially in a recess formed by outward protrusion in the rear cover.

39. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein the rear cover has a flat portion surrounding the outward protrusion.

40. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 21, wherein a single shaft rotates the inner tub.

41. (New) The method of manufacturing a washing machine according to claim 40, wherein the motor rotates the inner tub directly through the single shaft.